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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0140
INFO RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 2579
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0532
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4334
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4475
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8751
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 2698
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFIS/COMUSKOREA CC SEOUL KOR
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 001060

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/23/2018

TAGS: KS PGOV PHUM BM EAID

SUBJECT: ROK IN SYNC WITH U.S. POSITIONS ON BURMA AID

REF: A. STATE 55244

1B. STATE 53985

Classified By: POL M/C Joseph Yun. Reasons 1.4(b/d)

11. (C) Seo Eunji, MOFAT Deputy Director for Humanitarian Assistance, said on May 23 that the ROK had the same views as the U.S. concerning the priorities of the May 25 conference. The ROK was concerned about the lack of access granted by Burmese officials to international humanitarian aid workers, and agreed that a needs assessment mechanism through either the U.N. or an international organization was needed, said Ms. Seo. The ROK had already pledged USD 2.5 million for Cyclone Nargis relief efforts, but had no plans to pledge any additional funds at the May 25 conference because of the same concerns that the U.S. had cited.

12. (C) Ms. Seo stated that Vice Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan, whose portfolio includes multilateral issues and international organizations, would lead the Korean delegation to the conference. Three additional MOFAT officials would accompany VFM Kim.

VERSHBOW